

PBCC EMERITUS FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2009

JOAN YOUNG, EDITOR

Full of Blarney... *A Letter from Dan O'Connell*

May 3, 2009

Irish-loving friends and colleagues:

Yesterday Ruth and I kissed the Blarney Stone at the Blarney Castle outside of Cork, Ireland. According to legend we now have the gift of eloquence or gift of gab. One of the information posters added further philosophical insight into the important thesis of the scholar who wrote B.S. and On Truth: Is there a difference between Blarney and baloney? Of course there is; as there is a difference between BS and lying.

(According to the author, BS is worse.)

Blarney is the varnished truth.

Baloney is the unvarnished lie.

Blarney is flattery laid on just thin enough to like it. Baloney is flattery laid on so thick we hate it.

I firmly believe that if the world had a little

more Blarney and a little less baloney it would not be in the mess it is today.

Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen commented: "Baloney is flattery laid on with a trowel. Blarney is flattery laid on with the lips; that is why you have to kiss a stone to get it." The 1811 *Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue* by Francis Grose tells us that to "tip the blarney" is figuratively used to tell a marvelous story, or falsity, and also to express flattery.

Further comment includes this thought: "Most folk are unable to stop talking after

surviving the experience. The gift of gab is merely nonsense." This refers to the time when somebody would hold your legs as you hung out backwards with your head downward over the castle wall. This practice was stopped years ago after someone slipped out of the leg grip and fell to a humorless ending. Now there are bars below the stone to protect you from falling, and you only bend backwards a little.

I recall the joke told about my father, who was good at the gab as a trial attorney and popular raconteur. When he kissed the stone, it was said, for the first time the stone moved and kissed him back.

Although kissing the stone was not on our "Bucket List," it is one of the 101 *Things to Do Before You Become Old and Boring.*

County Cork is the home of the Barry, Murphy, and McCarthy clans. When we come back to Ireland in July with Debbie and Emily we will go to County Kerry, which is the area of the O'Connell clan. It is Blarney and not baloney to say that Ireland is one of the highlights of our four-month world voyage, which ends in 12 days.

As the saying goes, there are only two types of people—those that are Irish and those that wish they were, especially after they have visited the Emerald Isle!

Sincerely,

Dan aka Leprechaun



Message from the President ... *Bill Wilson*

Our May meeting was well attended and went well. The annual election results are these:

Officers for 2009-2010

President - **Bill Wilson**

Vice-Pres. - **Kathleen Asher**

Secretary - **Joan Young**

Treasurer - **Honey Duncan**

and I named the following to appointed positions:

Social Welfare Committee - **Honey Duncan**

Newsletter Editor - **Joan Young**

College Liaison - **Kathleen Asher**

Parliamentarian - **Honey Duncan**.

We heard a most informative talk by Richard Becker, Vice President of Administrative and Business Services for the College. He provided some insight into the future growth of the College and problems the College is dealing with, as well as ideas and suggestions for growth of our Association and the roles we might play in the future of the College. He suggested a committee be formed (with members from PBCC and from EFA) to plan a "package" of benefits and opportunities for EFA members, such as use of the College's

continued inside

Message from the President *continued*

fitness center, computer lab use, college e-mail, an EFA web site, and volunteer opportunities (club advisors, tutors, etc.) to be approved by the Board of Trustees. Kathleen Asher and the Opportunities Committee are working with Mr. Becker on these matters and will continue to do so.

Mary Bosworth was again the winner of the drawing for the \$50 gift certificate for the Atlantis Country Club.

Our fall meeting will be on **Friday, October 23, 2009, in the Faculty Dining Room, Central Campus at 11:00 AM.** You will receive notices of that event closer to that date. Pay close attention to them in case any changes are necessary.

Also mark your calendars for our **Holiday Party at Atlantis Country Club, Friday, December 4, 2009.** It continues to be a very happy event, so be sure to plan on attending if you can. It's a great way to be with friends and colleagues and to welcome in the entire holiday season with good food and great gifts!

I am concerned about our membership numbers. We have dropped over 20% since last year. We could have many more members. There are many PBCC retirees eligible to join us, but not a large number do so. For a very small dues fee they could keep in touch with colleagues they have worked with for years. Yet many retire and do not join the EFA. If you are aware of and/or in touch with other faculty or administrative retirees from PBCC who are not members, please encourage them to join.

Our dues are very modest and have not been raised in spite of rising prices for everything else. Other organizations that I belong to have all raised their dues. Atlantis has raised the cost of our Holiday Party. We are, however, keeping our dues the same. We can do this as long as our membership grows and dues are paid.

I do not intend to run for re-election again at our May 2010 meeting. We need a younger, energetic President to lead us into the coming changes and opportunities for our Association.

Will it be you?

Have a great summer and autumn!

NEWS OF MEMBERS

The EFA's helpful and faithful liaison with PBCC—our "administrative assistant," **Sue Rathbone**—wrote to thank us for remembering her with flowers on Administrative Assistant's Day. She wrote, "It's a real pleasure working with everyone."

Honey Duncan reported that she had attended the Lake Worth Dollars for Scholars ceremony on May 6, where scholarships for higher education were awarded to financially needy students at Lake Worth High School. Honey Duncan and the Eleanor Jennings Myatt Memorial Trust Fund are regular contributors to the Dollars for Scholars scholarships.

Sunny Meyer did it again! She created, directed, and performed in a well-received production called "Puttin' on the Glitz," presented by the Wellington Seniors On-Stage Theatrical Company on April 16, 2009 (her 8th show for the Wellington Seniors). The show was a variety of song, dance, comedy skits and numbers from old Broadway shows.



PHOTO BY CAROL PORTER/TOWN-CRIER

Since **Ruth Dooley** is now living in an assisted-living facility, she writes that she can attend our functions whenever transportation is available. She was unable to attend the May meeting.

Joan Holloway reports that she had a cataract operation and visited with her sons and their families on Mother's Day and on her birthday.

Glenn Marsteller and Nancy are running roller coasters again this summer at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, TN. Glenn just bought a new Harley and expects to do some touring with it.

Joe Schneider asks that we note his e-mail address, joemschneider@yahoo.com. Apparently, his "very old" one was previously listed. He writes that he and his wife are at their North Carolina address from May 1 through October 31 each year and in Lake Clarke Shores the rest of the year.

Kathleen and Don Asher's son, David, received five nominations for the Detroit Music Awards.

If an organization that you are a member of is looking for an interesting speaker, **Janell Bloodworth** gives talks around Palm Beach County on "Women in the Civil War."

"Growing old is not for sissies," write Norma and **Jim Tanner**. "Even Burt Reynolds looks older. "Memories of the past are priceless."

Lawrence Tuttle reports that his wife has been in a nursing home for the past four years with the disease Larry calls "the long goodbye." As for himself, he says, "At 90 years it is a little difficult for me to get to your dinners and meetings. . . . I have not forgotten how good the staff was to me when I was chairman of the Criminal Justice Program at PBJC, 1966-1981."

Idella Wade is still recuperating, but feels well enough to say that she will be seeing all of us if she can get a ride with either John Jenkins or Margaret Richardson.

Frankie Sprague writes that she is enjoying the accomplishments of her children and grandchildren and church activities. She was looking forward to vacations this summer, a stay on Marco Island and a cruise to Barbados. She also sent an e-mail address for Sandy Collins, sacoll@aol.com, who she says is often out of the country. Frankie expects to meet with us in the fall.

Paul Graham celebrated his 90th birthday on June 22 at a dinner organized by his wife, Ruth. In July he was hospitalized with pneumonia but is presently at home again.

Banna Ghioto was the keynote speaker at the Forgotten Soldiers Memorial, Palm Beach Cemetery, Lantana, and a speaker at the South Florida Veterans Cemetery, May 30, 2009.

Write to them!

They'd love to hear from you!

And send us your news!

Joan Young underwent emergency abdominal surgery for the removal of an intestinal obstruction at the end of March and had recuperated well enough to be at our May meeting. She continues to remain active. Besides serving as Secretary and Newsletter Editor for the Emeritus Faculty, she is Secretary of the PBCC Chapter of FACC and a member of the FACC statewide Retirees Commission. She's also back to bowling twice a week.

Dan O'Connell told us last year that he and his wife, Ruth, were planning to circumnavigate the globe on the *Princess Tahitian* out of Fort Lauderdale in January. On the third of May he e-mailed us that they were 10 days from completing that four-month world voyage—"just left Paris heading for Saint Petersburg." (See his letter on Blarney and Ireland on the cover.) He'll be back teaching at PBCC and FAU this fall and will see us at the Christmas party or sooner. (We're hoping our Program Committee can persuade him to entertain us with a talk and pictures of his travels at one of our meetings.)

Bill Boorman reported in early May that he has been living in Brentwood, CA (300 Winesap Dr., 94513) with Margo Wentz. They were high school classmates and lived together all of 2006 and are together again. They play duplicate bridge twice a week and social bridge at least once a week. Their plans for May and June included 1) visiting his one-year-old grandson, Liam, whose father, Bill's son Eric, had just returned from Ho Chi Minh City, where Eric and a medical group taught locals to perform heart operations on babies; 2) flying from there (Seattle) to Madrid to visit her son; 3) traveling to Athens for a week; and 4) then joining high school classmates in Lake Tahoe for a few days.

Nancy MacPherson reports that her beloved Pekingese, Pumpkin, died in June; and that she has been intending to get up to Georgia all summer, but every time she plans to go, something comes up to prevent her—hopes to go soon. No "real" news—"when I fly to the moon, I'll let you know!"

Our dedicated President, **Bill Wilson**, was scheduled for hip replacement surgery at Bethesda Memorial Hospital on July 23, but the operation was postponed because his sodium levels were much too low. He's

hoping that it will take place in August and that he will be recovered enough from the procedure to attend the Nurses' Convention in late September with his friend Rosalie Morrissey and the *U.S.S. Coral Sea* Convention in Washington, DC, in November.

Joanne Kelly, her husband Jim, and one of their sons went to Peru in July: Lima, Cuzco, and Puno. They report that it was wonderful to celebrate winter in July, the people were gracious, and Machu Picchu is as splendid as they had anticipated.

Frank and Kathy Adams are still enjoying their lives in Rome, Georgia, and are actively involved with Frank's alma mater, Berry College, there. Frank's latest interest is a written history of the high school he attended which closed in 1980. For the 55th reunion last spring he was able to assemble a booklet of his classmates' stories and also assisted in the video interviews of alumni who were on campus for Alumni Work Week.

Now for the sad news of the deaths of some of our colleagues. **Don Whitmer** died December 3, 2008, age 91, in Decatur, AL. Carolee Eldred wrote to thank us for our card of sympathy for the death of her mother, **Sylvia Graham (Walker Graham's widow)**.

Mary Orsenigo informed us that her husband, **Dr. Joseph R. Orsenigo**, died on April 4, 2009 in Belle Glade and that their two sons, Mark and Paul, had arrived to help her during this "period of adjustment." You may remember that in our newsletter last year we reported that Mary and Joe had visited her hometown of Deer Isle, Maine, for the 4th of July activities.

Frank Leahy, who had retired after 37 years at PBJC and PBCC, died on March 19, 2009, at his home in Palm Beach Gardens. His family-placed obituary in The Palm Beach Post from March 26 through 30 May be found at www.legacy.com/obituaries/palmbeachpost/.

Betty and Bob Woolfe reported from their retirement home in John Knox Village, Orange City, FL that their son, Russell, passed away in May of a brain tumor that invaded his spine—"much too young at 46"—leaving his wife and two children, who live in Ft. Myers.

Help! Help! Help!

An Editorial by Joan Young

Have you read Bill Wilson's "Message from the President"? Have you looked at the names of the EFA's elected and appointed officers and committee chairs?

Did you notice that five members are doing eight jobs for EFA (most of them for many years)? Do these names sound familiar? They should. These same people have been volunteering for these positions in the Emeritus Faculty Association for many years. It seems unfair that a handful of our members should assume all the work involved in running this organization, while the rest do nothing but sit back and reap the benefits of belonging.

Most importantly right now, our devoted and efficient President since the year 2000, Bill Wilson, having served a longer term than any of his predecessors, has announced he's calling it quits!

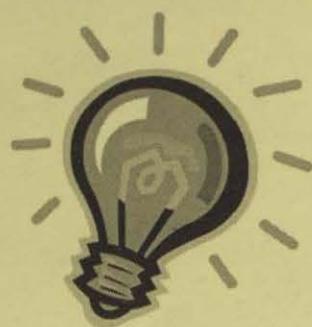
The EFA's first President, when it was established by the PBCC Board of Trustees in early 1993, was Sam Bottosto. He was succeeded by Lucille Dickinson in late 1994, then Elisabeth Erling in 1997, and Mary Bosworth in 1998.

Bill has accomplished much for the EFA during his unassuming and unofficious term of leadership. In 2003 he directed exploration into revising the EFA's Constitution and Bylaws, which resulted in expanding the purposes of the Association from merely social ones to ones providing opportunities for members to interact with PBCC personnel and students, to volunteer services, and to obtain benefits and services for members. He established the practice of a Holiday Luncheon Party for members and guests in December each year—a practice which has been increasingly popular with members each year.

We are in debt to Bill for his service, and we need to repay that debt by action. It is time for some of our "young" members—those still in their sixties—to step in and assume some of the leadership. We who are 80 plus are wearing out!

To echo Bill: "Will it be you?"

PLEASE SEND US NEWS ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING.



If you have an idea for a good speaker or program for one of our meetings, please contact:

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

SUNNY MEYER
(561) 793-3743

If you know of a member who is ill or who has died, please contact:

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If you have a change in address or phone number, please contact:

BILL WILSON
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Don't forget E-mail addresses and cell phones!

Send news about yourself or other members to:

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If you have an idea for an interesting opportunity or activity for EFA members, please contact:

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If you can help us find new members or if you know the address of a former member who has moved, please contact:

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KATHLEEN ASHER
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DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR:

October 23, 2009
Luncheon Meeting

December 4, 2009
Holiday Luncheon Party

Never too late!

... to keep up your membership in the Emeritus Faculty Association, where you can keep in touch with your former colleagues at Palm Beach Community College.

You can mail your annual dues to:

HONEY DUNCAN
1019 Snowden Drive
Lake Worth, FL 33461

--or you can just come to the meeting and pay your dues then.

Active Membership \$10
(In P.B. County or within 100 miles)

Honorary Membership \$5
(Spouse of Deceased Member)

Associate Membership \$5
(Not in P.B. County)